

State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913 PH (517) 373.1725 | FAX (517) 373.0741 www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/mcmanus/

> For Immediate Release September 13, 2006

> Contact: Emily Carney 517-373-1725

McManus congratulates local winners of Julian-Stille grants

LANSING – Sen. Michelle McManus congratulates local recipients of the Julian-Stille Agriculture Innovation Grants which are used to enhance or improve the overall value of Michigan-grown commodities through food or agricultural processing activities.

Area winners include Overby Farm in Lake Leelanau, Graceland Fruit in Frankfort, and Universal Grain and Biomass Heating Systems in Farwell.

"Michigan's agricultural industry is very important to the state's economy and these grants will help local members of the agricultural community who are looking to expand their business through new products or new processing methods," said McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. "Conducting market research, purchasing new equipment and selling new items will provide many economic and social benefits to Michigan communities."

Eligible applicants for the grants include individuals, farmer-owned cooperatives, partnerships, limited liability companies, private or public corporations, and local units of government for projects designed to establish, retain, expand, attract, or develop value-added agricultural processing and related agricultural production operations in this state.

Grants were awarded in the following categories: Technical Assistance, Facility Improvements, Market Research, Business Plan and Facility/Land.

###